



File Code: 2810
Date: May 14, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

I am inviting your input on the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's proposed plan for geotechnical drilling, and for the installation of instruments for long-term investigations at their mine site on Admiralty Island, Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is analyzing the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This activity falls within a category of actions established by the Chief of the Forest Service which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of human environment and, therefore may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. Specifically, this decision may be categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8), short-term (1-year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigation and their incidental support activities.

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company has proposed eight (8) geotechnical drilling sites at three (3) mine site locations. The proposed activities are for the installation of geophysical and/or hydrological instruments for long-term monitoring. Approximately 3-5 trees will be cut for the proposed Site 23 and its associated helipad. The land disturbance from Site 23 and the helipad will be .8 acres. Site 23 and the helipad, are located in the Juneau Urban Inventoried Roadless Area 307. The other drill pad locations will be accessed via the road with a total disturbance of .3 acres. The total disturbance from these geotechnical activities, will be approximately 1.1 acres. No roads will be constructed during this activity. Surface activities will commence the summer or fall of 2019.

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's Plan of Operations for this activity and other information, including maps for the drilling sites, are available for review at the Juneau Ranger District office or on the Tongass National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55668>

The purpose of this 30-day comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. In order to be most useful your comments should be provided by June 14, 2019 so we can incorporate them into the Decision Memorandum.

Comments may be sent to: comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us and written comments may be sent to:

Richard Dudek
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801



richardddudek@fs.fed.us

Phone: 907-789-6275

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Basia Trout". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BASIA TROUT

Admiralty Island National Monument District Ranger

cc: Kris Rutledge